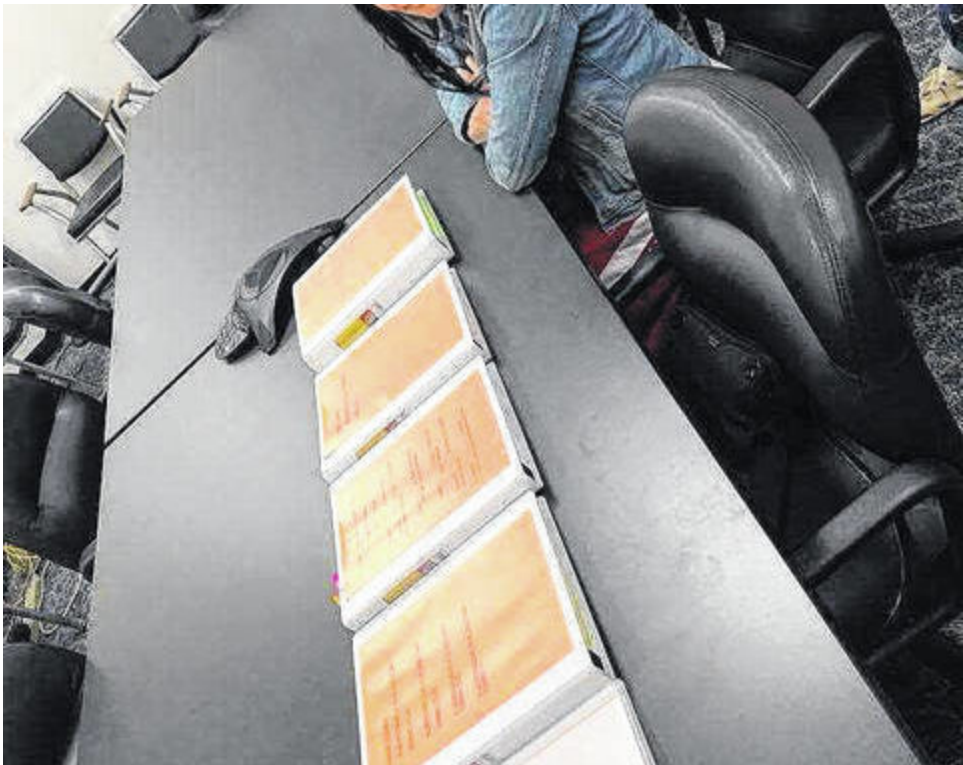


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Tuscaroras make state recognition bid

🕒 February 1, 2019 👤 robesonian 📁 News, Top Stories 💬 22

Scott Bigelow - Staff writer



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Lumberton, NC



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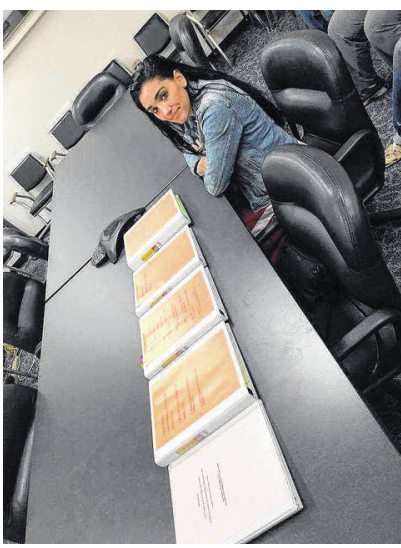
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PEMBROKE — Three Robeson County Tuscarora American Indian groups have united to press their case for state recognition by submitting a petition and responses to “findings and deficiencies” to the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs.

Tamra Lowry has spearheaded the Tuscarora Confederacy’s claim to a seat at the table of the 21-member commission. With input from legal and anthropological resources, the petition makes a case for about 1,000 people in three Tuscarora strongholds in Maxton, Saddletree and

Prospect communities.

“We want a voice in state Indian affairs and to participate in cultural affairs with the 11 state-recognized Indian tribes,” Lowry said. “This effort began 40 years ago in 1980.”

Long before that, some of Robeson County’s American Indians have claimed Tuscarora descent, including Henry Berry Lowrie, the Civil War-era Robeson County hero. Lumbees claim a different historical path.

The Tuscarora’s 40-plus pages of paperwork, which was at least two years in the making, will go the Recognition Committee of the Commission of Indian Affairs. A year ago, the initial petition was returned with additional questions.

A state Department of Administration spokesperson confirmed receipt of the final draft on Jan. 23, but could not provide further details. Attempts to contact Greg Richardson, Commission of Indian Affairs executive director, to get more information were unsuccessful.

Lowry said the original petition was submitted in 2012, and a second petition was returned with additional questions. It took another year to fill in the blanks.

“We were given 180 days to respond, but we asked for an additional 180 days,” Lowry said. “Over 300 years of historical information is documented, and the Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina followed not only the state recognition requirements, but additionally followed (federal guidelines for recognition).

“It took the Tuscarora people precisely 358 days to demonstrate kinship relationships with other recognized American Indian tribes. These relationships with other recognized American Indian tribes were based on the petitioner’s identification as an American Indian group or community and

- Trump says he will sign Lumbee Recognition Act if reelected

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- Lumbees call out tribal leaders; President Trump backs recognition legislation

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were evidenced by historic blood and marriage kinship ties and communal interaction of spiritual, educational and social institutions; or other cultural relationships between known (recognized) tribal communities and the petitioner’s community.”

Robeson County’s three Tuscarora groups are related and identify themselves through family clan groups in different parts of the county. They joined together, via an agreement, to apply for state recognition. Together they are the Confederation of Sovereign Tuscarora Bands of Robeson County, an alliance of the Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina, Tuscarora Tribe of North Carolina and the Tuscarora Indian Nation of North Carolina.

State recognition would qualify the Tuscaroras, who have each established nonprofit status, for some state and federal grants, but Lowry said there is much to gain that is less tangible.

“We want a voice on the Commission of Indian Affairs, because it shapes state policy about Indian affairs,” Lowry said.

There also are cultural and educational issues with participation in the state celebration of Native American Heritage Month, the annual Unity Conference and other events, she said.

Lowry and her team worked up to the deadline to produce answers to the commission’s questions. The federal government shutdown caused problems because it closed the Library of Congress, where some of the research is archived.

Lowry is pleased with the final product and believes it deserves fair consideration and eventually state recognition. But she is not optimistic.

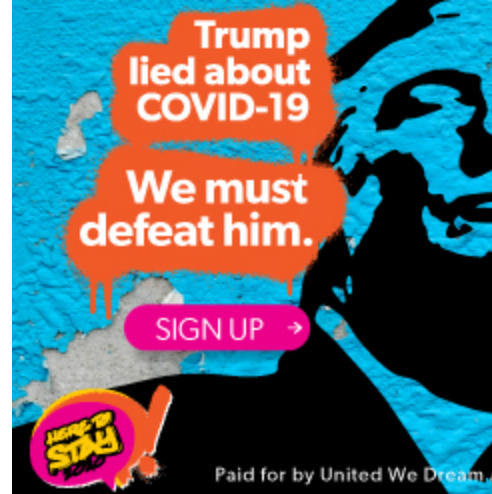
“We are not hopeful that they will respond fairly,” Lowry said. “We expect to go to court, and we have prepared a legal case along with our case for recognition.”

The Lumbees are the largest tribe in North Carolina and have the most influence on the commission. The Lumbees, who were recognized by the state in 1885, have three seats on the commission, most of the 11 tribes and associations.

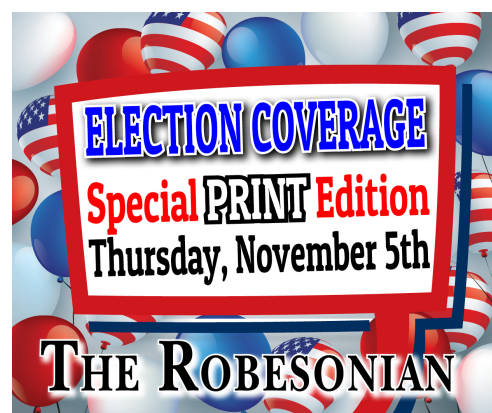
Lumbee Tribe Chairman Harvey Godwin Jr. said he is aware of the petition, but did not commit further.

“I prefer to reserve my comments until after the Commission of Indian Affairs renders its decision,” Godwin said.

Conflict has marked Lumbee and Tuscarora relationships over the years. Lowry is hopeful that past differences will not derail the effort on the state stage.



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EDITOR’S PICKS

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"The Tuscarora people have challenged the honorable Gov. (Roy) Cooper to employ a close watch to ensure the duration of the state recognition process is fair, unbiased and protected from tribal discrimination and political tactics of neighboring North Carolina recognized tribes," she said.

In general, criteria for recognition requires a history of the tribe and its origins, kinship through time and evidence of tribal collaboration and self-government. Charts of Tuscarora ancestry are a major feature of the petition.

The Tuscarora history in North Carolina came to a critical moment in the early 18th century when the powerful Indian nation, headquartered in New York, was defeated in the Tuscarora War of 1711-13. Remnants of the tribe settled in Bertie County then migrated farther south to Bladen County, which encompassed Robeson County at that time, the petition asserts.

The petition cites the Tuscarora presence in Robeson County in the 1790 census and in tax records of Bladen County. It states that the Lumbees, through the Lumbee Regional Development Association, blocked state recognition efforts in the early 1980s.

Lowry, graduate of The University of North Carolina Pembroke who is in her final year of a master's degree program in speech pathology, has devoted considerable time to making the case.

"We have always been the people of the swamp, who live down the long, long dirt roads," she said. "The Tuscarora people have suffered tremendously due to political scrutinizing, tribal discrimination and paper genocide of our history.

"The time to end this tribal discrimination is now," Lowry said.

Scott Bigelow can be reached at 910-644-4497 or bigelow@yahoo.com



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Board's creation a big step toward District 9 resolution

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Neighborhood faces bumpy road



Maxton man faces charges related to violation of 'nuisance' order

October 27, 2020

LUMBERTON — A Maxton man was arrested Monday for failure to appear in Robeson County Superior Court and allegedly violating a judicial order to stay away from a location in Maxton that has been identified as a "nuisance" and a site of various criminal activities.

[...]

•



The election may not be over election night

October 27, 2020

Voters and media alike, beware: We may not know the winners next Tuesday night. We may not know



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until all eligible absentee ballots are counted days later.

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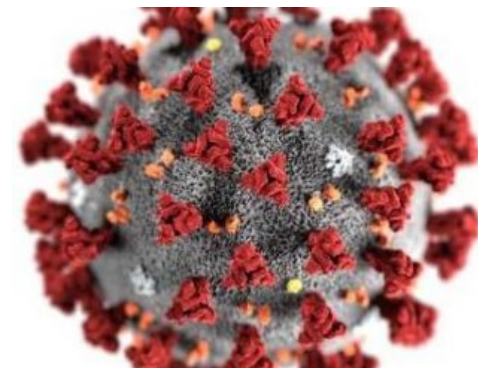
Among healthcare workers, the toll of COVID-19 falls hardest on nurses

UNCP's leader doesn't deserve grief for being at Trump rally

October 27, 2020

Regardless of your political beliefs or your stance on federal recognition of the Lumbee Tribe, you have to tip your hat to a man who had to know he was walking into a no-win situation, opening himself up to the barbs of anger and criticism. But walk in he did.

[...]



Robeson County's COVID-19 death toll at 101

22 Comments

Robesonian



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Name



Sweetgrass • 2 years ago

Using the 1790 census and tax records are problematic in making the case there were Tuscaroras in Robeson County. First, Indians weren't taxed in 1790, nor were they enumerated on the first census. Indians weren't US citizens until 1924, and the majority still resided in their tribal territories, with no need or legal status to purchase individual land in 1790. But Free People of Color could, not Indians. So, this opens up the question, how were they able to be considered taxable land-owners and enumerated as heads of households on the 1790 census?

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



dph62 • 2 years ago



Google Paul R. Jones along with Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



mr_lumbee3 • 2 years ago

Majority of the Native Americans in the area are of Tuscarora decent and Cheraw. All the same people just different tribal names. Waccamaw Souian is another example of this. It just shows the separation that exists among native people. Tuscarora's of NC, Waccamaw-Souian, and Lumbees should all agree to come together under one name. Work together instead of against one another.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



truthhurts → mr_lumbee3 • 2 years ago

Never Happen,,Greed

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



mr_lumbee3 → truthhurts • 2 years ago • edited

You are right.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



Paul R. Jones • 2 years ago

"Where is the proclamation ratified by voters of the United States to amend the United States Constitution to make the health, welfare, safety and benefits of a select group of U.S./State citizens distinguishable because of their Indian ancestry/race?"

^ | v • Reply • Share >



Sbebb → Paul R. Jones • 2 years ago

Apparently the article title confused you. Nonetheless, Executive Order 13175 spells out the federal policy. Google is your friend.

^ | v • Reply • Share >



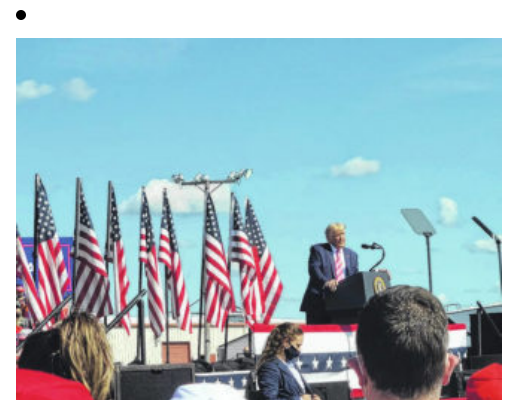
Paul R. Jones → Sbebb • 2 years ago • edited

Sbebb: Nope. The Article was not confusing whatsoever. Executive Orders-presidential or governor-cannot make a select group of U.S./State citizens with "Indian ancestry/race" distinguishable from all other U.S./State citizens because of their "Indian ancestry/race" absent a U.S. Constitutional Amendment and you did not provide such an Amendment. Such a Executive Order as in 13175 you noted runs head first into the 14rh Amendment's 'equal protection' provisions for starters. This SCOTUS decision and Scalia's text also notes that such Executive Orders as 13175 has no United States Constitution support: United States Supreme Court

October 27, 2020

LUMBERTON — Robeson County surpassed the grim milestone of 100 deaths related to COVID-19 when three were reported Tuesday by the Robeson County Health Department.

[...]



Trump support for Lumbee recognition a big part of talk about rally

October 27, 2020

LUMBERTON — Talk of President Donald Trump's rally Saturday at the county fairgrounds still was linked to his support of federal recognition for the Lumbee Tribe days after he left.

[...]

Crime report

October 27, 2020

The following thefts were reported Monday and Tuesday to the Robeson County Sheriff's Office:

[...]



ADARAND CONSTRUCTORS, INC. v. PENA,
(1995) No. 93-1841 Argued: January 17, 1995
Decided: June 12, 1995:
JUSTICE SCALIA, concurring in part and concurring

[see more](#)

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



Alex Baker → Paul R. Jones • 2 years ago

The relationship between federally recognized tribes and the United States is one between sovereigns, i.e., between a government and a government. This “government-to-government” principle, which is grounded in the United States Constitution, has helped to shape the long history of relations between the federal government and these tribal nations.

The federal Indian trust responsibility is a legal obligation under which the United States “has charged itself with moral obligations of the highest responsibility and trust” toward Indian tribes (*Seminole Nation v. United States*, 1942). This obligation was first discussed by Chief Justice John Marshall in *Cherokee Nation v. Georgia* (1831). Over the years, the trust doctrine has been at the center of numerous other Supreme Court cases, thus making it one of the most important principles in federal Indian law.

The federal Indian trust responsibility is also a legally enforceable fiduciary obligation on the part of the United States to protect tribal treaty rights, lands, assets, and resources, as well as a duty to carry out the mandates of federal law with respect to American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and villages. In several cases discussing the trust responsibility, the Supreme Court has used language suggesting that it entails legal duties, moral obligations, and the fulfillment of understandings and expectations that have arisen over the entire course of the relationship between the United States and the federally recognized tribes.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



Paul R. Jones → Alex Baker
• 2 years ago • edited



Pembroke Planning Board schedules special meeting for Thursday

October 27, 2020

PEMBROKE — The Planning Board here has scheduled a special meeting for 5 p.m. Thursday.

[...]

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Lumberton man faces charges after being arrested in St. Pauls

October 26, 2020

ST. PAULS — A 20-year-old Lumberton man faces several charges after being arrested in connection to an Oct. 19 purse-snatching incident.

[...]

•



Alex Baker: Nope. No such thing under our United States Constitution as 'sovereign Indian tribes' within a sovereign state of the union as such a condition runs head first into the sovereignty of each state protected by the 10th Amendment.

If you believe your post is supported by our United States Constitution post passage of the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924, would you provided the enumerated powers in the United States Constitution to make your post true? If not, then your post is merely your unsubstantiated opinion. In short, you are being duped by politicians-state and federal-aided and abetted by Article III judges. Not one politician-state or federal-nor Article III judge can provide the Statutes at Large for the existence of U.S.C. Title 25-INDIANS post

[see more](#)

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



Alex Baker ➔ Paul R. Jones • 2 years ago

This isnt my opinion but from the Department of Interior, an agency of the United States, as well as court rulings. My suggestion is file a petition, as this clearly bothers you, and see if a court of law validates your opinion, or interpretation. Until then, this is what we have and the rule of law.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



tapirrider1 ➔ Alex Baker • 2 years ago

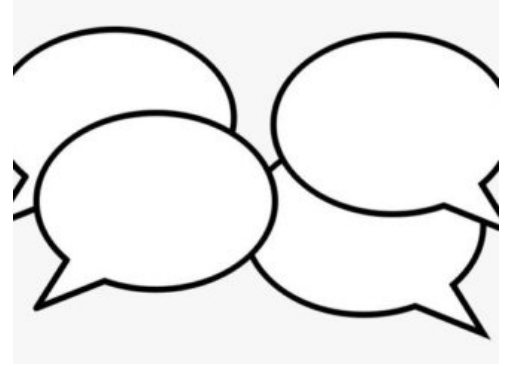
The courts have not only not validated Paul's opinions, they found his lawsuits to be easily thrown out because he overlooked a few simple things in the constitution, like that matter of not using federal courts to sue a state governor, and the constitutional protections against frivolous lawsuits like when he tried to sue John McCain. Even the supreme court threw out his appeal. Paul's opinions are warped and flawed.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



Paul R. Jones ➔ Alex Baker
• 2 years ago • edited

Alex, my post rests upon our United States Constitution. Period. Not one branch-be it the Executive, Legislative or Judicial-of our



Quotes of the week

October 26, 2020

"I want Miss Tammy to send a letter to the beaver guy."

[...]

•



Democrats may fall just short

October 26, 2020

RALEIGH — Of all the important electoral contests on North Carolina's ballot, our General Assembly races will be among the most consequential.

[...]

•



Judicial-Of our
governments-state and federal-can enact
statutory law not in compliance with our
United States Constitution...U.S.C. Title 25-
INDIANS does not comply.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



tapirrider1 → Paul R. Jones • 2 years ago

Paul, still waiting for you to discuss the Sioux Treaty of Fort Laramie of 1868. Remember? That little part about obtaining citizenship without forgoing the treaty? Still waiting for you to explain why you hitched your wagon to the 1924 citizenship act when it only applied to a few Indians, most others were already citizens through treaties or the Dawes act, which ensured that tribal relations would not be terminated simply by becoming citizens. You have also failed to give a reasonable answer concerning the wording of the 1924 citizenship act that likewise ensures that Indian tribal relations with the US are not terminated by becoming citizens. And lastly, I have yet to hear from you over the matter of forced collective naturalization which that 1924 act was. I am still waiting for you to show me in the constitution where the power comes from to force citizenship on members of a foreign nation and then terminate the existence of those nations without treaty or consent. Do tell Paul.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



ConcernedCitizen • 2 years ago

Yes, there was state recognition in 1885 BUT not under the name of Lumbee. However,they were recognized as the Croatans at that time.

Then in 1913,North Carolina legislature changed the tribe's name from Croatan to Cherokee Indians of Robeson County.

In 1952, following the leadership of D.F. Lowrie and other community leaders,the tribe voted to adopt the name Lumbee.

In 1953. North Carolina changed the name of the tribe from Cherokee to Lumbee.

Why am I posting this information? As it is written by the reporter, it is not completely factual information. In 1885, and according to the Lumbee tribes own web page, the name Lumbee did not exist at that time.

As for the Tuscarora requesting state recognition. WHY should that



Deadline to request absentee ballot is 5 p.m. Tuesday

October 26, 2020

RALEIGH — The deadline to request an absentee ballot for use during the 2020 general election is 5 p.m. Tuesday.

[...]



Robeson County Bears building as first season concludes

October 26, 2020

FAYETTEVILLE — The Robeson County Bears semi-professional football team finished its first season with a close loss to the Rockingham County Grizzlies on Saturday, one in which the fate of the game — a likely their Central Carolina Football



As for the Tusculum requesting state recognition, WPII should that be an issue with anyone IF they can prove their lineage? The answer to that question is simple though: Others are afraid that money will be taken away from them.

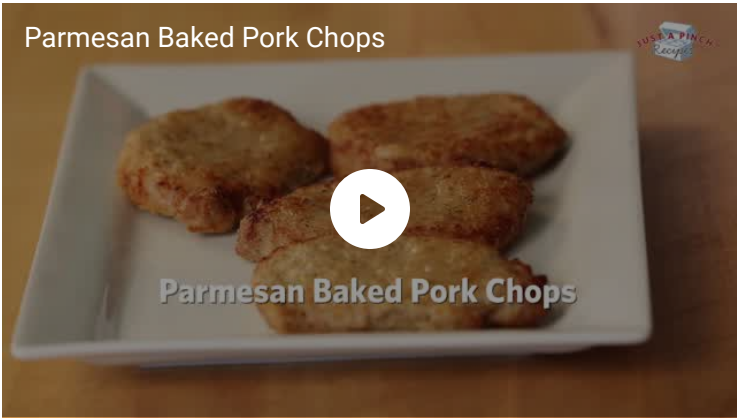
5 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



mr_lumbee3 → ConcernedCitizen • 2 years ago
Absolutely right!

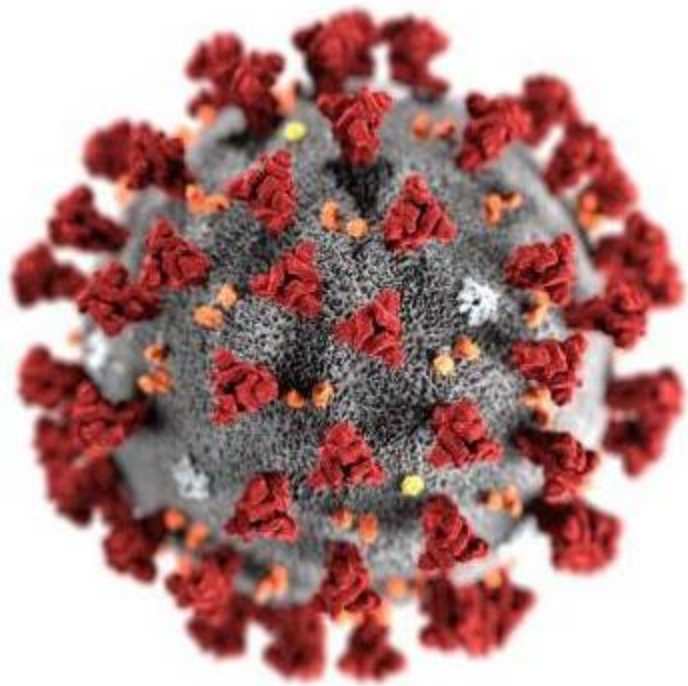
League playoff chances — was sealed with a missed opportunity inside the 10-yard line in the game’s final seconds.

[...]



Robeson County’s COVID-19 death toll now at 101





October 27, 2020

LUMBERTON — Robeson County surpassed the grim milestone of 100 deaths related to COVID-19 when three were reported Tuesday by the Robeson County Health Department.

A total of 101 people have now died as a result of contracting the novel coronavirus since the first case was reported March 21.

There have been 10 deaths in the past six days, said Bill Smith, county Health Department director. Of those 10, three were people less than 60 years old.

A total of 5,850 county residents have tested positive for COVID-19 as of Monday, according to the Health Department.

"Hitting 100 is more of an eye-catching moment," Smith said. "The message of masking, distancing and sanitizing has been said for seven months. If someone isn't doing it, it isn't because they don't know better, it's because they do not want to."

Some of the people who died were positive about their outcome, he said.

"I am familiar with some of the deaths, and by and large, they were functioning people and had a good outlook, albeit not necessarily lengthy," he said. "Unfortunately, many families did not get to say 'good-bye' and the patient died alone.

"There is nothing about this virus that should be taken lightly irrespective of a person's age."

Underlying health conditions is a main factor in the virus-related deaths throughout the state, Smith said.



“Half of North Carolinians have an underlying health condition — diabetes, blood pressure, overweight, asthma, lung issues, sickle cell, etc.,” he said. “It would be fair to say that almost all people had some condition that COVID was able to exacerbate.”

Robeson County represents 1.3% of the state’s population and has accounted for 2.4% of deaths related to COVID-19, according to the Health Department.

“This could be reflective of the relative unhealthiness of the residents,” Smith said.

Joanne Anderson, the president and CEO, reiterated Smith’s message that it’s up to the individual to adhere to safety precautions put in place to lower the spread of the coronavirus.

“I am saddened to hear that we have reached 100 COVID-related deaths in Robeson County,” she said. “I believe that we should all be working together to reduce the spread of the virus, understanding that our actions could have consequences that reach beyond ourselves and impact others in our community.”

Southeastern Health has implemented every safety measure recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, she said.

“We do not believe that there have been any cases of COVID-19 that have been contracted while any patients have been hospitalized at Southeastern Regional Medical Center,” Anderson said.

The chief medial officer for the Robeson Health Care Corporation stressed adhering to the mandate of wearing a face-covering, keeping a safe distance of at least 6 feet from others, and keeping hands clean throughout the day.

“This virus is significantly more deadly than the flu,” Dr. Eugene Nor said.

One of the deadliest thoughts among people is the misconception that because they are surrounded by people with whom they are familiar, they are safe, he said. People should not let their guard down for the sake of themselves and others.

“I worry about those who live in large families where multiple people are going into and out of the home every day as a part of their job or to go to stores, run errands, etc.,” he said. “I think some people feel that since they live with someone, or see someone every day, that they are safe to be around.

“You don’t know who that person has been around during the course of a given day. It only takes one exposure involving one person in a given household to result in everyone in that household getting infected.”



Trump support for Lumbee recognition a big part of talk about rally



October 27, 2020

LUMBERTON — Talk of President Donald Trump's rally Saturday at the county fairgrounds still was linked to his support of federal recognition for the Lumbee Tribe days after he left.

"The real story is Lumbee recognition," said Channing Jones, Robeson County's Economic Development director.

If the tribe obtains federal recognition it will be the greatest economic stimulus in Robeson County's history, he said. The effects will be felt along Interstate 95 on either side of the county.

"The economic impact it will bring to just about every business owner in the county, it will be tremendous," Jones said.

Arnold West, owner of Village Station and Arnold's restaurants, saw an immediate economic benefit from Trump's rally.

"It really brought a lot of people right by my front doors," West said.

Village Station and Arnold's Restaurant opened 2 p.m. Saturday, and many people stopped by after the rally to have lunch, he said.



"We were a little busier after he left town," West said.

The restaurant owner said he couldn't see many other long-term effects of the president's stop in Lumberton.

"I can't see it having a long-term effect unless he's reelected," West said.

His businesses weren't affected by the president's visit to Lumberton, said Bryan Britt, owner of Cakes and Pastries, and chairman of the Lumberton Area Chamber of Commerce board of directors. But, he did hear many customers talking about the rally at the fairgrounds.

"I had the same amount of business," Britt said. "I didn't have any increase or decrease in business."

But, federal recognition of the Lumbee Tribe would be a game changer for the county, he said.

Federal recognition would be an economic boost that would affect the county for years to come, Britt said. He supports the tribe's quest of more than 100 years for federal recognition.

"It sure couldn't hurt us for whatever they get," he said.

It's good that Trump came and that he wants the Lumbee Tribe to have federal recognition, said Shanna Hammonds, a Lumberton resident and Lumbee Tribe member.

"Because at the end of the day, every other tribe has been recognized," Hammonds said. "Even though we might not have written history, we still have history. I don't see a problem with it. It ain't for the money or anything like that."

Not everyone is certain the county realized an immediate benefit from Trump's visit.

"I'm not sure. I don't know what all happened. I wasn't here or anything, so I'm not sure," said Lamar Courmon, of Pembroke.

The rally could have had an immediate economic affect to local businesses, he said.

"I don't know how many people actually came and if they actually stopped to the stores and stuff," Courmon said. "If they stopped somewhere, hopefully they benefited, if they stopped in the stores and cool spots, and hopefully that put some money in RobCo's pocket."

Maria Quick, of Lumberton, said she believes it's a good thing any time a presidential candidate stops somewhere.



"I think anywhere, if you have a presidential candidate, or anybody that's going to help us, if they come to our community that's a good thing," she said. "And whether you like him or not, eventually, if he becomes president again, my personal beliefs are he's still our president and we should support him."

Having Trump come to what many people think of as a small town is a plus, she said.

"Growing up in New York and down here, back and forth all my life, I've seen a lot of the changes, and I think him coming showed that we mean something, just like another big city," Quick said.

At least in one regard, Trump's rally was a history-making event, said Phillip Stephens, Robeson County Republican Party chairman. The party's research indicates it was the first time a sitting president has visited Robeson County.

"Having any sitting president is a historic event for the county," Stephens said. "Seeing the excitement over a Republican president in a formally Democratic county was particularly amazing. I don't think I've ever seen so many Trump & Republican shirts or hats in one place at one time in Robeson County before."

Stephens attended Saturday's rally with state Republican Party Chairman Micheal Whatley, state party staff members, U.S. Reps. Dan Bishop and Richard Hudson, state Sen. Danny Britt Jr., state Rep. Brenden Jones and N.C. House candidate Olivia Oxendine.

"Hopefully, once we get beyond the partisan disagreement the significance historically will certainly be acknowledged by everyone," Stephens said. "It should make everyone proud not to simply be Republican or Democrat, but to be proud to be a Robesonian and be proud to be an American."

Given that the world is in the middle of a pandemic, there could be a health cost in the coming weeks, said Bill Smith, county Health Department director. He would not be surprised to see a spike in COVID-19 cases, but nor would he be surprised if he didn't.

"From the picture I saw chairs were side by side with no spacing between thus no distancing," Smith said. "Our statistics state that Robeson County was not a good candidate for a mass gathering that did not strictly follow the preventive measures.

"One would anticipate positive cases occurring within two weeks, but people with the virus can spread it to others who then spread it, etc., which goes over the course of time. It is like a pebble in a lake and the waves that are created. Being outdoors helps but I did see a substantial number of elderly people who were at the highest risk."



Crime report

October 27, 2020

The following thefts were reported Monday and Tuesday to the Robeson County Sheriff's Office:

Chavila Bullard, Jacobs Road, Maxton; Lynn Scott, Oxendine School Road/N.C. 71 North, Maxton; Norma Locklear, Shaw Road, St. Pauls; Gabriel Bullard, Evergreen Church Road, Pembroke; Steven Lambert, Southfork Road, Parkton; Michael Bommarito, Long Leaf Drive, Lumberton; Joy Evans, Shaw Road, St. Pauls; and Howard Allen, Woody Farm Road, Lumberton.

Terica Lowry reported Monday to the Robeson County Sheriff's Office that a break-in occurred on N.C. 211 West in Red Springs.

Anna Campos, of East Seventh Street in Lumberton, reported Monday to the Lumberton Police Department that someone broke into a vehicle while it was parked at Walmart Neighborhood Market, located on 2985 Elizabethtown Road in Lumberton.

Pembroke Planning Board schedules special meeting for Thursday



October 27, 2020

PEMBROKE — The Planning Board here has scheduled a special meeting for 5 p.m. Thursday.

The meeting is to take place at Town Hall, located at 100 Union Chapel Road in Pembroke.



The purpose of the meeting is discuss amendments to Article 2, "Basic Definitions and Interpretations," and Article 19, "Lighting Ordinance," in the town's Unified Development Ordinance. The board also will review site plans for the A.S. Thomas parking lot and the Scotland Health Care System's new medical office building.

Lumberton man faces charges after being arrested in St. Pauls



October 26, 2020

ST. PAULS — A 20-year-old Lumberton man faces several charges after being arrested in connection to an Oct. 19 purse-snatching incident.

Dominique Page, of Mud Alley Road, was arrested Sunday and charged with common law robbery, carrying a concealed firearm, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and conspiracy, according to the St. Pauls Police Department. He was placed in the Robeson County Detention Center under a \$150,000 bond.

The charges are in connection with the Oct. 19 robbery of a woman at the Five Star Gas Station and Convenience Store on Broad Street, according to the police department. Page and one other person are believed to have stolen the woman's purse.

"As a result of the investigation conducted by detectives, Lieutenant Michael Seago signed warrants against Page for the robbery," the department's



statement reads in part.

Seago and St. Pauls Police Chief Stephen Dollinger arrested Page after seeing him walking near Martin Luther King Drive on Sunday, according to the police department. Page is a convicted felon, and was carrying a concealed handgun at the time of his arrest.

“Lieutenant Seago did an excellent job investigating this crime, and identifying and arresting this violent subject,” the statement reads in part.

“This sends a clear message that these types of crimes will not be tolerated in the St. Pauls community and the St. Pauls Police Department will use every resource at its disposal to bring the violent offenders who commit them to justice,” the statement also reads.

Police expect to make another arrest in the case soon, according to the statement.

Anyone with more information should call the St. Pauls Police Department at 910-865-5155.

Deadline to request absentee ballot is 5 p.m. Tuesday



October 26, 2020

RALEIGH — The deadline to request an absentee ballot for use during the 2020 general election is 5 p.m. Tuesday.

“If you want to vote by mail, please request your ballot now,” said Karen Brinson Bell, State Board of Elections executive director. “But if you miss the



request deadline, you can still vote early in person through Oct. 31 or on Election Day, Nov. 3, at your assigned precinct.”

Requests for an absentee ballot must be received by a county board of elections by the deadline, according to the State Elections Board. An any person requesting an absentee ballot must be registered to vote before requesting the ballot.

As of 9:30 a.m. Monday, nearly 780,000 North Carolinians had cast their ballot by mail for the Nov. 3 election, according to the State Board. That’s about four times more by-mail voters than in 2016.

The best way to request an absentee ballot by mail is through the State Board’s Absentee Ballot Request Portal:

<https://votebymail.ncsbe.gov/app/home>.

Voters may also complete an Absentee Ballot Request Form and email, fax or return the form in-person to their county board of elections. Voters are urged not to mail the form because it likely will not arrive by the request deadline.

To track the status of an absentee ballot request and a mail-in ballot, voters may use BallotTrax: <https://votebymail.ncsbe.gov/app/home>.

Also, voters may check to see whether or not their absentee ballot or in-person early voting ballot was accepted by using the State Board’s Voter Search tool.

Voters who request a ballot but decide to vote in person, can discard the ballot and vote during early voting or on Election Day, according to the State Elections Board. The voter’s mail-in ballot will be spoiled and not counted. A voter may not vote in person if the voter’s mail-in ballot has been accepted.

It’s important for anyone who wishes to vote by mail to send or deliver their ballot now to ensure it is received in time, according to the State Board.

Voters may return a completed mail-in ballot in three ways:

- Mail their ballot to their county board of elections. The ballot must be postmarked on or before Election Day.
- Drop their ballot off at any early voting site in their county. To find early voting sites and hours, use the One-Stop Early Voting Site Search Tool.
- Drop their ballot off in person at their county board of elections office through 5 p.m. on Election Day.

For more on voting by mail, visit <https://www.ncsbe.gov/voting/vote-mail>.



UNCP students call for chancellor to resign because he attended Trump rally



October 26, 2020

LUMBERTON — Calls for the resignation of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke's chancellor were made Monday in the wake of his attendance Saturday of a campaign rally in Lumberton for President Donald Trump.

The resignation demands came mainly from UNCP students and alumni who learned of Chancellor Robin Cummings' presence at the rally when Trump pointed him out in the crowd.

About 150 students met by video conference over the weekend and formed the Nonviolent Students Cultivating Change movement. About 50 movement members took part Monday in a protest that began with students marching from Old Main and Cypress Hall and meeting at noon in front of Lumbee Hall, which houses the chancellor's office, and calling for Cummings' resignation.

Movement leader Jaylen Ellis said the protest would last until midnight, and a meeting with Cummings had been scheduled for Tuesday. Ellis also said he was coordinating with the Unified Robeson NAACP Branch. He also is working separately to organize a program to allow students to transfer out of UNCP, and to discourage other minority students from joining the institution.

"I feel like it's just too late for a meeting," he said.



One of the students' concerns is that Cummings' presence was inconsistent with COVID-19 restrictions the university has adopted to keep its doors open this fall semester. Some of the rules prohibit large social gatherings, and mandate face coverings be worn on campus.

Saturday's rally brought in more than 3,000 spectators, according to the Robeson County Sheriff's Office.

Others who turned out to protest said Cummings' presence could be interpreted as a show of support by Cummings and the university for Trump's reelection campaign.

"We're all being tied to Trump supporters," Adeline Kelley said.

A post on Twitter stated that the university supports Trump, which is not the case, Kelley said.

Some students said if Cummings does not resign, they would be willing to accept a "genuine apology" and a path forward that allows for more inclusion.

Thomas Crowe-Allbritton, UNCP alumnus and former president of the Student Government Association, expressed his opposition of Cummings' actions on Saturday.

"Actions speak louder than words," Crowe-Allbritton wrote on Facebook Saturday. "Chancellor Cummings' presence at the Trump rally today has nullified anything he has said about the march over the summer and anything since then. Let's not even get started on the hypocrisy of him being at a rally where practically no one has a mask."

The negative comments were enough to garner a response from Cummings, who sent out an email addressed to "Bravenation." In it he explained his reasoning and acknowledged that his actions were "inconsistent."

The letter reads, "For essentially my adult life, I have consistently and strongly advocated for full federal recognition for the Lumbee Tribe. In recent weeks, many elected officials have publicly confirmed their support of Lumbee recognition, an outcome the Lumbee Tribe has worked toward over the past 100 years. Advancing and supporting this region is one of our university's driving goals, and the impact of the education, health and housing benefits full federal recognition would bring to UNCP, Robeson County and southeastern North Carolina is a critical step forward in that path. Most importantly, recognition is the just course to correct an injustice.

"I was asked to accompany a delegation of tribal members to an event in Lumberton, where the President was to offer his full support of Lumbee recognition efforts. Both presidential candidates have expressed their



support for the Lumbee people, and I remain grateful to them and all who support these long-overdue efforts regardless of political affiliation.

“My commitment and passion for tribal recognition influenced my decision to attend the announcement. I understand and accept the concern and disappointment over participation in a gathering that was well over our campus limitations. While I did maintain social distancing given the seating arrangement provided and wore my mask throughout the event, it was still inconsistent with how we have navigated the fall semester under my direction.”

Ellis said the Nonviolent Students Cultivating Change movement supports Lumbee recognition.

“We are in full support of the Lumbee Tribe getting tribal status, and our mission and focus is not to devalue their fight of getting recognized by the government,” Ellis said. “It’s the fact that he was out there when he shouldn’t have been out there.”

Robeson County Republican Party Chairman Phillip Stephens supports the chancellor’s decision to attend the event. It was important that he represent the university’s interest regardless of who is president, Stephens said.

“It’s nonpartisan representation the chancellor provides regardless of who the sitting president is that is visiting the area,” Stephens said. “To criticize the chancellor for representing the interests of the university simply makes it a partisan issue when it shouldn’t be.”

Lumbee Recognition is a bipartisan issue, he said.

“I’d expect the chancellor or any leader for that matter to lobby, attend and represent regardless of the party affiliation of the president,” Stephens said. “I don’t think attendance is a signal of partisanship. I think it’s a signal of leadership.

“I would hope he’d do the same with a democrat president or leader to provide influence over university or tribal affairs that will impact our region.”

As far as safety, concern is understood but the Trump team provided masks, temperature checks and hand sanitizer, and attendance at the event was voluntary, and it was held outside, Stephens said.

Pearlean Revels, the chairman of the Robeson County Democratic Party, did not wish to comment on the matter calling it a “Republican issue.”



Eleven St. Pauls police vehicles get new look thanks to donors



October 26, 2020

ST PAULS — Police cars here are sporting new logos that were funded by donations.

Eleven police vehicles received new graphics on Thursday, police Chief Stephen Dollinger said. The other five vehicles remain unmarked.

"We changed the look of the vehicles to give them a more professional appearance," Dollinger said.

The police department released a statement Friday thanking donors for funding that made the upgrades possible.

"We would like to thank Jerry, Anthony and Joey Weindel from Superior Flooring and Finish One Industrial Flooring who donated most of the funding for the graphics. These local businesses are always big supporters of our department," the statement reads in part.

St. Pauls police Lt. Michael Seago said he is proud of the new "sharp" and "beautiful" designs.

The lieutenant, who has served on the force for 19 years, said the patrol cars are the "prettiest" he's seen.



Seago credited Dollinger for efforts to update the vehicles and improve the department.

"It's great," Seago said. "Our chief is great. He's done a lot for our police department."

RCCCC launches fundraiser to get coats to children



October 26, 2020

LUMBERTON — The Robeson County Church and Community Center has organized a fundraiser in an effort to provide 250 public school children with coats this winter.

Donations can be made on the Center's website at <https://www.robesontogether.org/operationwarm/>, in-person or by mailing a donation to the Center, located at 600 W. Fifth St. in Lumberton. The fundraiser ends Nov. 15.

"We started a partnership with Operation Warm last year. They give nonprofits an opportunity to purchase coats for children in need at a discounted rate," said Brianna Goodwin, the Center's assistant director for Operations.

"Last year we gave out over 100 coats to students who were identified through PSRC social workers, and this year our goal is to raise \$5,000, which will purchase 250 coats," she added.

Each coat costs about \$20, at the Center's discounted rate.

Center workers plan to get the coats to children by Christmas, she said.

Checks can be made payable to the "Robeson County Church and Community Center" with "coats" written in the memo.

For more information about the fundraiser, call RCCCC at 910-738-5204 or email info@robesontogether.org.



Law enforcement agencies work together to ensure safe Trump rally



October 26, 2020

LUMBERTON — Local law enforcement leaders praised interagency collaboration for the web of security that surrounded Saturday's rally for President Donald Trump.

More than 3,000 people attended the event, and multiple law enforcement agencies worked together to close roadways and to keep the security operation running smoothly for the arrival of the president.

Lumberton police Chief Mike McNeill said collaboration between agencies made for a safe event.

The Robeson, Bladen, Columbus and Brunswick county sheriff's offices, State Highway Patrol, St. Pauls and Maxton police departments and the Secret Service were among the agencies providing security for the event. Most of the agencies are mutual aid partners of the Robeson County Sheriff's Office.



"That was the sweetest thing of them all," McNeill said. "We couldn't have pulled it off without having all of those agencies here."

McNeill and his officers closed intersections inside city limits.

"We blocked the intersections so the motorcade could come through," McNeill said.

Among the areas closed by the police was N.C. 41 between Starlite Drive and U.S. 74. The section of N.C. 41 was closed from noon to 3 p.m.

Members of the State Highway Patrol blocked areas in Cumberland County, while St. Pauls police and Columbus County deputies closed Exit 31 so Trump could safely make his way down Interstate 95 after deplaning Air Force One in Fayetteville.

St. Pauls police Lt. Michael Seago said he and others assigned to keep Exit 31 closed were in place about 11:30 a.m. and Trump drove through about 12:15 p.m. Officers and deputies stayed at their post until after 2 p.m.

"We made sure that no one went under the bridge at mile marker 31," Seago said.

Saturday was his first time working during a U.S. president's visit to Robeson County by a U.S. president, Seago said.

"It's just great seeing the president going down the road," he said.

Seago described Saturday as "a great experience" to add to his 27 years in law enforcement, and hopes to be involved in other similar events in the future.

A member of the State Highway Patrol escorted the president's motorcade, while also relaying information to 1st Sgt. S.B. Lewis, who kept others at the fairgrounds informed of the president's location. Lewis also patrolled areas to make sure they were secured by other state troopers.

"We took intersections and overpasses in Cumberland County," he said.

Lewis said the "strong working relationships" between agencies is the reason the event went as well as it did.

No collisions resulted from road closures or delays caused by the event, he said.

"All things being said, we came out of this with no complaints," Lewis said, as he was writing an after-action report Monday describing activities related to Saturday's rally.



Robeson County Sheriff Burnis Wilkins said the event took a lot of planning and coordination.

"We met at our office with Secret Service a couple of days prior to the visit to finalize everything," Wilkins said.

Members of Robeson County EMS, Lumberton Police Department and other agencies attended the meeting.

"The entire route from the time the president stepped off of the plane to the point he stepped onto the stage in Lumberton was carefully scrutinized for any potential problem. Obviously we couldn't take this on alone, so we asked outside agencies to assist, particularly with traffic control along I-95," he said.

Two dogs with bomb-detecting capabilities from the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office were at the rally. Many first responders and local EMS workers also were present.

Some attendees and a state law enforcement officer were affected by the heat, but no serious medical conditions occurred, the sheriff said.

"Everything went as great as I prayed it would ... Regardless of one's political views or choice of candidate, we needed this to end well and the positivity towards the recognition of the Lumbee Tribe was a great way to cap off the event. It's not every day we see a president come to town," Wilkins said.

The sheriff did not personally meet Trump, but did wave briefly as he left the event.

And the sheriff took with him Saturday experience he will never forget.

"I was involved with security as a former (Alcohol Law Enforcement) state agent when President Bill Clinton came to Tarboro, N.C., in 1999 after Hurricane Floyd wreaked havoc there," Wilkins said.

"I was familiar with how the Secret Service worked, but as sheriff, I was up close and personal with the ladies and gentlemen, which will be on the highlights of my career," he added.

Woman dies on single-vehicle crash; Family starts Go Fund Me page





October 26, 2020

LUMBERTON — The family of a 19-year-old Lumberton woman killed in a single-vehicle accident over the weekend has organized a social media page to help with funeral expenses.

Isabella Ocheenia McCall died Saturday in a crash that occurred about 12:32 a.m. when the 2008 Pontiac passenger vehicle she was driving crashed into a ditch at McKinnon-Pate Road and N.C. 130, about one-quarter mile outside Rowland, according to 1st Sgt. S.B. Lewis, of the State Highway Patrol. McCall failed to stop at the intersection, and the vehicle crashed head-on into the ditch straight ahead of the vehicle.

McCall and her passenger, 21-year-old Alli Brook Williams of Rowland, were not wearing seat belts at the time of the crash, Lewis said. McCall was partially ejected, but Williams remained in the vehicle.

Both were taken to Southeastern Regional Medical Center, he said. McCall died of her injuries. Williams' injuries were not thought to be life-threatening.

"Alcohol impairment is suspected," Lewis said.

Tests to determine impairment will be completed by the N.C. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Raleigh, he said.



McCall's brother, Caleb McCall, organized a Go Fund Me account to help her family pay funeral expenses.

"Bella was loved by many and left an incredible impact on every individual who was lucky enough to meet her. She was the life of the party in every get together and she would light up the room with that incredible and infectious smile of hers. She was an incredible mother to her baby girl, and an amazing daughter, sister and friend. We have been so comforted by the wonderful stories and comments we have received on Facebook and by other means," McCall wrote on the Go Fund Me page.

"This money will go to alleviate the financial burden that comes with the sudden passing of a loved one. This fund has been created to help out with funeral cost. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated...Your love and support shown to her over the years has touched us deeply and we are thankful that you were a part of her life Sincerely, The McCall family."

The Go Fund Me page can be found at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/in-loving-memory-of-isabella-mccall>.

Crime report

October 26, 2020

Alma Haywood reported Sunday to the Robeson County Sheriff's Office that a break-in occurred on Drowning Creek Road in Maxton.

The following thefts were reported Sunday and Monday to the Robeson County Sheriff's Office:

Eric Cummings, N.C. 41 South, Fairmont; Sarai Acosta, Maple Leaf Drive, St. Pauls; Jennifer Gonzalez, Poppy Lane, Parkton; and Lynn Scott, Oxendine School Road/N.C. 71 North, Maxton.



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